LOK SABHA

Tuesday, December 10, 1996/Agrahayana 19, 1918 (Saka)

(The Lok Sabha met at One Minute Past Eleven of the Clock)

[MR. SPEAKER *in the Chair*]

ORAL ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

[Translation]

Crushing Capacity of Sugar Mills

*261. SHRI NITISH KUMAR :
SHRI KACHARU BHAU RAUT :

Will the Minister of FOOD be pleased to state :

(a) the present crushing capacity of sugar mills, State-wise;

(b) the total quantity of sugarcane crushed during 1995-96 crushing season, State-wise;

(c) whether the sugar mills have the capacity of crushing the entire production of sugarcane during the crushing season 1996-97;

(d) if so, the details thereof alongwith the estimated sugarcane production during the season; and

(e) if not, the steps being taken by the Government to increase the crushing capacity of the sugar mills?

THE MINISTER OF FOOD AND MINISTER OF CIVIL SUPPLIES, CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI DEVENDRA PRASAD YADAV) : (a) to (e). A statement is being placed on the Table of the House.

STATEMENT

(a) As on 30.9.96, the total crushing capacity of the existing sugar mills in the country was 9,11,937 tonnes of cane per day. The State-wise installed daily cane crushing capacity of sugar mills in the country is given at Annexure-I.

(b) The State-wise total quantity of sugar cane crushed by sugar mills in the country during sugar season 1995-96 (October-September) is given at Annexure-II.

(c) to (e). Sugarcane is consumed not only by the sugar manufacturing units but also by khandsari, and gur manufacturers and for chewing purposes, seeds etc. Till 1994-95 the All-India drawal rate i.e. sugarcane utilised by the sugar mills was of the order of 54.4%. In 1995-96 it had risen to 61.6 per cent. The preliminary estimates of sugarcane production for 1996-97 is lower i.e. 2718.69 lakh tonnes as against the production of 2829.45 lakh tonnes during 1995-96. On the other hand, it is likely that some more licensed capacity may be converted into installed operational capacity thereby augmenting the total crushing capacity.

ANNEXURE-I

State-wise Installed Cane Crushing Capacity per day (Tonnes) of Sugar Mills in the Country

(As on 30.9.96)

S.No.	State	Cane Crushing Capacity per day (tonnes)
1.	Haryana	27800
2.	Punjab	44766
3.	Uttar Pradesh	260607
4.	Bihar	43674
5.	West Bengal	1819
6.	Assam	3313
7.	Orissa	12919
8.	Rajasthan	3766
9.	Madhya Pradesh	11075
10.	Maharashtra	229228
11.	Gujarat	51350
12.	Andhra Pradesh	69325
13.	Tamil Nadu	81350
14.	Karnataka	63405
15.	Kerala	2540
16.	Pondicherry	2750
17.	Nagaland	1000
18.	Goa	1250
	Total	9,11,937

ANNEXURE-II

State-wise Total Quantity of Sugarcane Crushed by Sugar Mills in the Country during the Season 1995-96 (October-September).

(Provisional)

S.No.	State	Cane Crushed (Lakh Tonnes)
1	2	3
1.	Haryana	54.23
2.	Punjab	72.43
3.	Uttar Pradesh	502.34
4.	Bihar	43.31
5.	West Bengal	1.22

1	2	3
6.	Assam	0.91
7.	Orissa	9.47
8.	Rajasthan	3.36
9.	Madhya Pradesh	13.76
10.	Maharashtra	515.60
11.	Gujarat	107.81
12	Andhra Pradesh	90.30
13.	Tamil Nadu	190.01
14.	Karnataka	128.76
15	Kerala	1.51
16	Pondicherry	6.50
17.	Nagaland	0.15
18.	Goa	1.90
	All India	1743.57

SHRI NITISH KUMAR : Mr. Speaker, Sir, the reply given by the Government regarding crushing capacity appears to be far from the truth. It is regarding the whole country whereas position regarding Bihar was asked from him under 'state-wise details'. Most sugar mills in Bihar, especially all those owned by the Government, are closed. With the obsolete technology available there, the sugar mills have a very low crushing capacity, functioning at less than 30-35 per cent of their production capacity. Under the circumstances, the reply of the Government is unsatisfactory.

Through you Sir, I would like to know from the Government whether it has any scheme to enhance the crushing capacity of sugar mills, bring in better technology in them or modernise them? If any such scheme is under consideration, I would like to know the action plan thereof.

SHRI DEVENDRA PRASAD YADAV : I would just now dwell upon the crushing capacity especially in the case of Bihar, it is 43.674 lakh tonnes per day.

SHRI NITISH KUMAR : He should tell something from his own knowledge also.

SHRI DEVENDRA PRASAD YADAV : Hon'ble Member is not only wise but clever also. Therefore, I would like to tell him that out of the sick mills in Bihar some mills are very old and it is true that their crushing capacity has decreased, however, we have necessary provisions to modernise the technology of their crushing capacity. Under the Sugar Development Fund, we provide governmental assistance to old mills. If the hon. Member may provide us a list of such mills which he wants to be modernised, we will certainly consider it.

SHRI NITISH KUMAR : I would thank the Minister, though there is no need to give such a list as he allready has it, yet I will send it to him. Do the Government propose to introduce delicensing in the sugar industry in order to augment the crushing capacity in the country and increase the production of sugar, especially better quality sugar with a view to boosting its export if so, the time by which the Government propose to introduce such delicensing?

SHRI DEVENDRA PRASAD YADAV : Mr. Speaker, Sir, this matter is under consideration rather active consideration of the Government so anything can be told only after such consideration. However, we will take an early decision on it.

SHRI KACHARU BHAU RAUT : The Minister in his reply has given information about crushing of sugar cane. He should tell the area in Maharashtra not covered after the crushing season and the quantity of sugarcane left uncrushed there. Do the Government proposed to provide assistance to those farmers who have suffered losses due to non-crushing of sugar cane?

SHRI DEVENDRA PRASAD YADAV : In Maharashtra, there are mostly cooperative sugar mills. As far I know Maharashtra's position is quite good in this respect.

SHRI BANWARI LAL PUROHIT : Correct information is not available.

SHRI DEVENDRA PRASAD YADAV : Please to listen to the reply. The question regarding sugar in Maharashtra had been raised on previous occasion also. That sugar cane crops remained standing in the fields for want of crushing. I have got it investigated. The Maharashtra Government has written to us that the sugar cane crops did not remain standing in the fields. The crops did remain standing in the case of second growth which is done afterwards, but this was not the position with the first growth.

SHRI RAM NAGINA MISHRA : Hon. Mr. Speaker, Sir, the Minister in his reply has assured that he may be given a list of low capacity sugar mills and he would provide assistance from the sugar development fund. I would like to know from him that out of the 170 sugar mills in Uttar Pradesh, more than half have a capacity of 800 to 1200 tonnes. Prior to this the Government had given approval to augment the capacity of sugar mills located in Piprai, Baitlapur, Laxmiganj and Bhatni but to this day not a single rupee has been released from the Development Fund. Right now there is a dilemma regarding non-payment of the rate of 72 rupees to farmers for getting their sugar crane crushed. An amount of Rs. 500 crore is outstanding against the sugar mills as on date. Against the sugar mills at Padrauna and Katkuiana, an amount of Rs. 17 crore is outstanding for which the people had to launch an agitation there and even had to go to jails also. You are also aware that more than half of the sugar cane produced goes to small crushing units at just half the rate. I would like to know from the Government as to the amounts of money given to sugar mills Statewise and whether they promised the rate of Rs. 72 per quintal is proposed to

be given to them, the action proposed to be taken by Government to make prompt payment of outstanding dues of sugar cane.

SHRI DEVENDRA PRASAD YADAV : Hon. Mr. Speaker, Sir, though the question put by the hon. Member is not related to the original question, yet I will provide certain information in deference to the sentiments of the hon. Member.

As he has just now made a reference to the payment, I would like to submit that in Uttar Pradesh, an amount of about Rs. 3455 crore was due for payment out of which payment of Rs. 3202 crore has been made and about Rs. 253 crores, which comes to 7.3 per cent, remains outstanding, payment of which is in process.

SHRI RAM NAGINA MISHRA : Mr. Speaker, Sir, my question has not been answered. Please listen to me...*(Interruptions)* The matter regarding augmentation of the capacity of four sugar mills had been approved four years ago, how much money has been released for the same? Besides this they have decided to give the rate of Rs. 72 per quintal in Uttar Pradesh which is not being given by the mills. *(Interruptions)*. The Government of India...*(Interruptions)* has given how much amount against the outstanding dues? Sir, this is a very important question ..*(Interruptions)*

SHRI DEVENDRA PRASAD YADAV : Sir, as I have pointed out earlier, although the question of the hon. Member deviates from the original one, however no proposal from Uttar Pradesh regarding expansion, augmentation of TCB capacity is pending with me right now So far *(Interruptions)*

SHRI RAM NAGINA MISHRA : There are five mills *(Interruptions)*

SHRI DEVENDRA PRASAD YADAV : Please give it in writing. I will immediately follow up. With that regarding expansion *(Interruptions)* We give top priority to the cases of expansion. More than 50 sugar mills have been granted sanction for exxpansion so far *(Interruptions)*. Please give it in writing, I will take action immediately...*(Interruptions)*.

MR. SPEAKER : You may give it in writing.

SHRI BHIMRAO VISHNUJI BADADE : Mr. Speaker, Sir All the sugar cane produced in Maharashtra during 1995-96 could not be crushed in the sugar mills in Maharashtra 15 lakh metric tonne of sugarcane remained idle in the fields. I had earlier asked a question regarding this and today also I am asking, what assistance had been provided by the Central Government? The Central Government gets at least Rs. 2000 crore from our Maharashtra State toward the Development Fund. The funds which the Central Government gets flow to the farmers by way of payments made for the sugarcane crushed in the sugarmills of Maharashtra through the Development Fund. For this the Central Government has provided Rs. 125 crore for the whole of Maharashtra, but the Central Government has not provided to Maharashtra Rs. 2000 crore which the former ought to have given to the latter as development fund. Due to this the farmers have suffered a great deal of loss. I would like to know from the Minister about this.

SHRI DEVENDRA PRASAD YADAV : Mr. Speaker, Sir, as I have said earlier, Maharashtra Government will give assistance to the tune of Rs. 5000 crore per acre for the sugarcane which could not be crushed although the quantity of this uncrushed sugarcane is not much ...*(Interruptions)* Rs. 5000 per acre...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI BHIMRAO VISHNUJI BADADE : None has got anything so far. *(Interruptions)* Not even a single pie ..*(Interruptions)*

SHRI DEVENDRA PRASAD YADAV : Please provide information about the places where nobody has got anything. To provide them assistance is our positive ..*(Interruptions)*

SHRI PRAMOD MAHAJAN : He is going to provide Rs. 5000 per acre - this is what he is saying ..*(Interruptions)*

SHRI BANWARI LAL PUROHIT : Till date not a single rupee has been provided by way of assistance ..*(Interruptions)*

SHRI DEVENDRA PRASAD YADAV : Of course, assistance at the rate of Rs. 5000 hectare will certainly be provided in those areas where sugar cane could not be crushed...*(Interruptions)*

Secondly, hon. Members have raised the question of sugarcane growers *(Interruptions)*

SHRI MUKHTAR ANIS : Is he going it to provide it for the whole country or is it meant for Maharashtra only?...*(Interruptions)* This allocation of funds at the rate of Rs. 5000 per hectare is meant for Maharashtra only or for the whole country? ..*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER : Please take your seat.

(Interruptions)

SHRI RAM KRIPAL YADAV : Through you, Sir, I would like to know the names of States which are to gets this facility, is it only for Maharashtra or for the whole country? ..*(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : Sit down. I know the importance of this question. This was listed earlier also where questions could not be answered. Yesterday, I have admitted a Half-an-hour Discussion on this.

(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : Question No. 262, Dr. T. Subbarami Reddy.

(Interruptions)

PROF. P.J. KURIEN : There are sugar mills not only in Maharashtra but in other places also...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER : I have already admitted a Half-an-hour Discussion on this.

(Interruptions)

SHRI RAMENDRA KUMAR : Is the announcement made by the hon. Minister to the effect that Rs. 5,000 would be given to the farmers, applicable throughout the country or only to Maharashtra? This is a very important point.. *(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER : I know it is important. I agree with you.

(Interruptions)

PROF. P.J. KURIEN : There are tow sugar mills in my constituency and both are sick...*(Interruptions)* And if you do not allow me, where can I raise this matter? ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER : You can take part in the Half-an-hour Discussion.

PROF. P.J. KURIEN : It is such an important question ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER : No. Sit down. We are already on the next question. I know, everybody wants to ask questions on this, it is very important. Every State is affected.

(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : But we cannot take one hour for one question.

(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : I have allowed a Half-an-hour Discussion.

(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : No. We are on the next question.

(Interruptions)

Forest Ministers' Conference

*262. DR. T. SUBBARAMI REDDY : Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state :

(a) whether State Forest Ministers' Conference was held recently in Delhi; and

(b) if so, the points discussed and the decisions taken in the Conference?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (CAPT. JAI NARAYAN PRASAD NISHAD) : (a) Yes, Sir. The Conference of State Forest Ministers was held at Delhi on 26-27th August, 1996.

(b) The conference was structured into three broad groups dealing with general forestry, issues relating to north-eastern states and wildlife. The points discussed in the conference are given in the statement laid on the Table of the House.

STATEMENT.

Main recommendations are given below :

GENERAL FORESTRY

1. Joint Foret Management (JFM) programmes in degraded forests.

Decision to further extend the JFM to well wooded forets may be taken after the committee set up by the National Afforestation and Eco-development Board, Ministry of Environment and Forests has holistically examined various issues related to JFM and submitted its recommendations.

Socio-economic conflicts have been generated due to implementation of JFM programmes leading to loss of usufructory benefits to people living farther away from forests, but were traditionally availing such benefits in the past. It was agreed that the bonafide needs of the people living beyond this threshold may have to be met by making extension forestry an integral part of the JFM. Forest working plans should provide for incorporation of site-specific mico-planning and JFM. comprehensive guidelines should be formulated for training of village communities also in precepts and practices of JFM in which NGOs can play a lead role.

2. Progress of annual reports (statistical) of States/UTs.

Need for compatible databases for aggregation at national level through Forest Survey of India (FSI) and Indian Council of Forestry Research & Education (ICFRE) was stressed.

3. Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980

The directive from the Government of India, that no new proposal under Forest (Conservation) Act would be considered until and unless at least 70% of targets for Compensatory Afforestation (CA) has been achieved, has a salutary effect. Because of many practicable and procedural difficulties this limit may be reduced to 50% for post 1990 diversions. However, the limit could be increased in subsequent years after the operational difficulties have been resolved and procedures harmonised.

The State Government may be empowered, through a State Committee, having a representative from the Government of India, to clear the projects involving diversion of forest land up to 5 hectares in cases involving public utility services, e.g. water supply schemes, schools, hospital, etc. This power, however, would need to be exercised with greatest circumspection under well defined guidelines to be framed by the Government of India in consultations with the State Governments.

Stipulation of compensatory afforestation with regard to the cases of removal of boulders and/or sand from river beds should be waived.